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EDWARD CONLEY

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NATO--BURDEN SHARING AND STANDARDIZATION

ANNCR:

THE STATUS OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ALLIANCE AS AN EFFECTIVE DETERRENT TO INCREASING SOVIET MILITARY STRENGTH WAS THE SUBJECT OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE HELD RECENTLY IN WASHINGTON. VOA'S EDWARD CONLEY REPORTS:

VOICE:

THE FORUM WAS THE THIRD QUADRANGULAR CONFERENCE ATTENDED BY SCHOLARS AND OFFICIALS OF WESTERN EUROPEAN NATIONS, THE UNITED STATES, CANADA AND JAPAN, AND SPONSORED BY THE WASHINGTON-BASED CENTER FOR STRATEGIC AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES.

THE QUESTION RAISED WAS HOW CAN NATO, IN THE FACE OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES AFFECTING ITS MEMBERS, REMAIN STRONG ENOUGH TO SERVE AS A DETERRENT TO WHAT NATO COMMANDER GENERAL ALEXANDER HAIG TERMED "AN EXPLOSION IN SOVIET STRATEGIC MILITARY CAPABILITY?"

ACCORDING TO GENERAL HAIG, THE ANSWER IS NOT SOLELY FOUND IN MILITARY STRENGTH, BUT IN CONCERTED POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ACTIONS BY NATO MEMBERS.

TAPE -- HAIG 1:13

"THE SYSTEM ITSELF IS BEING CHALLENGED WITHIN SOCIETIES... WESTERN INDUSTRIAL MARKET ECONOMIES AND THEIR PERTINENCE AND EFFECTIVENESS TO MEET THE NEEDS OF OTHER SOCIETIES. THIS HAS BEEN WHAT HAS BEEN FUNDAMENTALLY CHALLENGED IN THIS SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHALLENGE. IF THERE'S ONE REALITY THAT EMERGES FROM AN ASSESSMENT OF THAT CRISIS IT IS THE GROWING INTERDEPENDENCE OF OUR WESTERN SOCIETY. THE NEED TO CONCERT AND PULL COLLECTIVELY...TO POOL OUR RESOURCES, OUR ENERGY, TO COPE WITH THIS FUNDAMENTAL CRISIS TO THE SYSTEM ITSELF. IT MEANS TRADE, ECONOMIC, MONETARY, ENERGY COOPERATION, IT IS PATENTLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR WESTERN STATES TO EXPECT TO ACHIEVE COOPERATIVE SUCCESS IN THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC FIELD WHILE THEY SIMULTANEOUSLY UNDERCUT THE BEDROCK UPON WHICH ALL COOPERATIVE ACTION MUST BE BUILT...AND THAT'S THE CONFIDENCE AND THE TRUST THAT OUR VARIOUS PEOPLES HAVE IN OUR SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS."

VOICE:

ONE SUPPORTER OF CLOSER EUROPEAN-AMERICAN COOPERATION, AS CALLED FOR BY GENERAL HAIG, IS MISTER THOMAS CALLAGHAN, AUTHOR OF A REPORT ENTITLED "U.S.-EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COOPERATION IN MILITARY AND CIVIL TECHNOLOGY". HE WARNED THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE THAT "NATO IS IN TROUBLE." MISTER CALLAGHAN SAID THAT POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC FRAGMENTATION WITHIN THE ALLIANCE GIVES THE STRICTLY REGIMENTED WARSAW PACT A GROWING ADVANTAGE IN THE MILITARY FIELD. THE SCHOLAR (AND PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN FIRM EX-IM TECH, INCORPORATED) CALLED FOR A COORDINATED EFFORT BY WESTERN EUROPE NATIONS AND THE UNITED STATES -- IN THE FORM OF A NORTH ATLANTIC COMMON DEFENSE MARKET--TO MEET WHAT HE CALLED THE DISCIPLINE OF THE WARSAW PACT.

TAPE: CALLAGHAN :30

"ESTABLISHING A NORTH ATLANTIC COMMON DEFENSE MARKET WILL BE THE LARGEST PEACETIME POLITICAL-ECONOMIC EFFORT EVER UNDERTAKEN BY FREE PEOPLES IN THEIR OWN DEFENSE. IT WILL TEST WHETHER THE NATIONS OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC ALLIANCE HAVE THE POLITICAL WILL, THE POLITICAL WISDOM AND THE INSTITUTIONAL FLEXIBILITY TO MATCH THE MILITARY INDUSTRIAL DISCIPLINE OF THE WARSAW PACT."

VOICE:

MISTER CALLAGHAN AND OTHER PANELISTS NOTED THAT NATO DEFENSE FORCES OPERATE WITH A VARIETY OF MILITARY WEAPONS SYSTEMS...BECAUSE OF THE GUARDED PROTECTION OF INDIVIDUAL DEFENSE INDUSTRIES IN NATO STATES. HE ARGUED FOR STANDARDIZATION OF NATO ARMAMENTS, IN PARTICULAR STANDARDIZATION OF WEAPONS PRODUCTION BY NATO'S EUROPEAN MEMBERS.

THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT AMONG THE EUROPEANS ATTENDING THE CONFERENCE THAT STANDARDIZATION IS A GOOD IDEA. BUT THE CHIEF SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR TO THE BRITISH DEFENSE MINISTRY, HERMAN BONDI, INSISTED THAT IF STANDARDIZATION EVER IS ACHIEVED,

IT MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A UNITED STATES WILLINGNESS TO PURCHASE EUROPEAN MILITARY EQUIPMENT.

TAPE: BOND 1:15

"IF WE CAN TURN THE ATLANTIC INTO A TWO-WAY STREET SO THAT DEFENSE PRODUCTS FLOW FREELY IN BOTH DIRECTIONS...THEN AND ONLY THEN WILL IT BE POSSIBLE TO DEPLOY THE RESOURCES OF THE ALLIANCE IN A WAY IN WHICH OUR NATIONAL SECURITY OBJECTIVES DON'T CONFLICT WITHOUT INDUSTRIAL, EMPLOYMENT AND TECHNOLOGICAL OBJECTIVES. NOR NEED THIS POSE ANY THREAT AT ALL TO AMERICAN INDUSTRY. WHAT ONE WANTS TO DO IS TO INCREASE THE FLOW IN BOTH DIRECTIONS SO THAT SOME WEAPONS SYSTEMS DEVELOPED IN THE UNITED STATES ARE USED ALLIANCE WIDE AND SOME WEAPONS SYSTEMS DEVELOPED IN EUROPE ARE USED ALLIANCE WIDE."

VOICE:

A BIG QUESTION MARK LOOMING OVER THE POSSIBILITY OF EUROPEAN ARMS STANDARDIZATION IS THE ATTITUDE OF FRANCE, WHICH IS NOT A MEMBER OF NATO'S INTEGRATED DEFENSE STRUCTURE AND HAS BEEN OPPOSED TO EUROPEAN ARMAMENTS COOPERATION...PURSUING INSTEAD AN INDEPENDENT COURSE. BUT RECENTLY, THERE HAS BEEN AN EASING OF THE FRENCH POSITION, AS OUTLINED AT THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE BY THIERRY DE MONTBRIAL OF THE FRENCH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. HE HELD OUT SOME HOPE FOR EUROPEAN ARMS PRODUCTION COOPERATION...WITHIN CERTAIN GUIDELINES. BUT HE WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT AN EARLY AGREEMENT.

TAPE: DE MONTBRIAL :52

"THERE IS CERTAINLY A FIELD FOR COOPERATION BUT THERE ARE MANY OBSTACLES AND THE PROBLEM CANNOT BE REDUCED AS A SINGLE COST-EFFECTIVENESS PROBLEM. FOR INSTANCE, I WOULD FAVOR THE TWO-WAY STREET IDEA IF IT CAN BE DONE IN SUCH A WAY AS EUROPE WILL NOT BE A MERE SUB-CONTRACTANT OF U.S. FIRMS. SO, WE HAVE TO FACE THIS KIND OF PROBLEM. I HAVE NO DOUBT PERSONALLY, THAT WITHIN THE TEN OR TWENTY YEARS TO COME THESE PROBLEMS WILL BE FULLY DISCUSSED. I SAY TEN TO TWENTY YEARS BECAUSE I THINK THESE MATTERS ARE VERY LONG TO EVOLVE."

VOICE:

THE REMARKS OF PANELISTS AT A WASHINGTON CONFERENCE DISCUSSING THE POSSIBILITY OF STANDARDIZATION OF EUROPEAN ARMS PRODUCTION IN A MOVE TO STRENGTHEN THE DEFENSIVE CAPABILITIES OF NATO.

ON FEBRUARY SECOND, A WEEK FOLLOWING THAT CONFERENCE, MEMBERS OF NATO'S EUROGROUP...AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FRENCH DEFENSE MINISTRY....MET IN ROME TO DISCUSS STANDARDIZATION. IN A MOVE TOWARD A MORE EFFECTIVE DEFENSE GROUPING, TEN MEMBERS OF THE NATO ORGANIZATION...AND FRANCE...AGREED TO SEEK COORDINATION OF THEIR ARMS PRODUCTION AND CALLED FOR ANOTHER MEETING ON THE SUBJECT LATER THIS YEAR.

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